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LETTER DATED 15 OCTOBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On 26 August 1992 the United Nations Security Council, having considered the situation, expressed its deep concern at the continuing bloodshed and appealed to all parties to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan to conclude a cease-fire and to cooperate in the efforts of the Minsk Conference within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). This move by the Security Council met with full understanding in Azerbaijan and helped to ensure that during the period in question the process of settling the conflict between the States of Armenia and Azerbaijan made further progress.

Specifically, on 27 August 1992 a cease-fire agreement was signed in Alma Ata, Kazakhstan, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Mr. T. Gassymov, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Mr. R. Hovanissian, in the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Mr. T. Suleimenov.

Then, on 21 September 1992 at Sochi, Russia - in the presence of the Defence Minister of Russia, Mr. P. Grachev, and the Defence Minister of Georgia, Mr. T. Kitovani - the Defence Minister of Azerbaijan, Mr. R. Gaziev, and the Defence Minister of Armenia, Mr. V. Sarkissian, signed an agreement in which inter alia an understanding was reached concerning the stationing in the conflict zone of observers from the countries specified in the agreement.

The above-mentioned agreements state clearly that both Azerbaijan and Armenia are committed to a political settlement of the conflict in full conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, the CSCE Final Act and the Helsinki Declaration. Having laid down these principles as a foundation, Azerbaijan and Armenia, in the persons of their experts, drafted and signed in Moscow on 25 September 1992 a protocol concerning the arrangements for the cease-fire and the deployment of the observers which is already being carried out: the first group of observers arrived in the conflict zone and began to perform their functions on 28 September.

The statement dated 29 September 1992 of the President of the Azerbaijani Republic, Mr. Elchibey, which gives an account of the two agreements, stresses that the leaders of Azerbaijan regard these agreements as a stage in the complicated process of resolving the crisis and as one of the phases of a political settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan within the CSCE framework. Furthermore, the telex message dated 29 September 1992 concerning the Sochi agreement from the President of Azerbaijan addressed to the heads of State of four countries - Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan - states his readiness to accept observers from those countries.

In addition, the transmission of this message to the President of the Minsk Conference of the CSCE, Mario Rafaelli, indicates that Azerbaijan intends to continue to rely in the settlement of this conflict on the efforts of the CSCE, which has prepared its version of a settlement, including the question of observers.

The position of the leaders of Azerbaijan on the settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan within the CSCE framework was set out by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Mr. Gassymov, in his letter dated 25 August 1992 addressed to the President of the Security Council and was confirmed by him during his recent visit to New York, specifically in his statement to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, during his discussions with the Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali and with the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Petrovsky, and at a meeting with the Director of the Department of Political Affairs, Mr. Vendrell. That position remains unchanged at the present time.

With regard to the latest message from the Republic of Armenia, we cannot understand a position where, on the one hand, an agreement is concluded providing for the deployment of observers from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan and a protocol on arrangements for its implementation is signed, but where, on the other hand, a few days later the documents signed are disregarded and a proposal is made whose implementation would mean the creation of a parallel arrangement for settlement of the conflict. As we see it, such an approach will lead to a prolongation of the negotiating process and will further complicate the already complex situation in the region.

To sum up, agreements between the Governments of Azerbaijan and Armenia concerning a cease-fire have been concluded, and an arrangement for their implementation has been worked out and confirmed, the observers have arrived and are operating, and the CSCE representatives are continuing to help to strengthen the negotiating process between the parties to the conflict. In these circumstances any attempt to shift that process into a new framework or to extend the present settlement framework by concluding new agreements and devising new arrangements including an invitation to yet another group of observers or some other mission with a new mandate can only delay the attainment of the ultimate purpose of all these efforts - the establishment of peace in the region. It is right and it is essential for the parties to

understand their responsibility to fulfil the commitments already entered into under the agreements recently concluded between the Governments of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

I should be grateful if this letter could be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan HASSANOV
Ambassador, Permanent Representative